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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001245

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/PPD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2018

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY: INFORMATION STILL INCOMPLETE ON ISTANBUL
ATTACK

REF: ANKARA 1242

Classified By: DCM Doug Silliman for reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (SBU) Turkish National Police (TNP) officials this morning passed the Embassy, unofficially, the names of the assailants in yesterday's attack on the Consulate General in Istanbul:

Raif Topcil, born in 1988;
Erkan Kargin, born in 1982;
Bulent Cinar, born in 1985.

(Note: Several newspapers also carried these names, but at least one gave Topcil's given name as Mahsum. End note)
No official confirmation of the names has been provided yet. A TNP contact indicated the three assailants were Turkish citizens, but we have no official confirmation of that yet.

¶2. (C) The Embassy also understands from reliable contacts that TNP authorities are continuing to search for a vehicle presumed to have been involved in the attack. Although no vehicle is seen on the Consulate security camera videotape, officials are reportedly operating on the presumption that a vehicle must have been used, not least because the hunting shotgun that was used is unusually long (almost five feet). The Consulate has provided copies of all relevant videotape footage to the TNP.

¶3. (C) A ceremony to honor the three slain police officers was held at 1130 on July 10 at the Istanbul Security Directorate. Consul General Sharon Wiener sent a wreath from the Consulate, and she and several consulate personnel attended the event. Arrangements are underway for the CG to make a quiet visit to the two hospitalized victims.

¶4. (U) Turkish press condemned the attack and speculated on possible links to terrorist organizations including al-Qaeda, the Islamist IBDA-C and the ultra-nationalist Ergenekon network. Some columnists suggested the attack was retaliation for the Turkish police's recent operations against al-Qaeda groups in southern Turkey. Yeni Safak's Tamer Korkmaz said the attack "may have been a warning to police to stop digging into Ergenekon." Mainstream Milliyet columnist Sami Kohen stated the target was the US, not Turkish police, or the assailants would have chosen a less

secure target. Other columnists concluded a professional terrorist organization would not have staged such an unsophisticated attack.

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